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THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

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A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS IN 1929

Looking back over 1929, a certain measure of progress should be recorded in respect to the generally good balance in production, the increased income from livestock, the slightly higher gross value of certain crops, and some apparent gain in the stability of land values. Early estimates suggest that the gross income from the past crop season will about equal or slightly exceed the \$12,500,000,000 of the previous year.

The aggregate value of the crops, based upon average farm prices December 1, is estimated at \$8,580,528,000, which is \$85,000,000 higher than a year ago. Aside from the higher value of hay, which was more or less offset by lower feed grain values, the principal increase this year was in the \$470,000,000 potato crop, that figure representing a value \$219,000,000 above that of last year. The total cotton crop was valued roundly at \$100,000,000 less and the wheat crop at some \$50,000,000 less than a year ago. Thus, the most striking change was in potatoes, a crop nearly one-fourth smaller selling nearly twice as high as last year.

The total amounts paid by packers to producers, during the first 10 months of the year, for animals slaughtered under Federal inspection were as follows: For cattle in 1929, \$716,000,000, representing an average price of \$10.82 per hundred pounds; in 1928, \$718,000,000, or an average price of \$10.76. For hogs, 1929 total cost to packers \$936,000,000, average price \$10.32; 1928 cost \$850,000,000, average price \$9.31. For sheep and lambs, 1929 total cost \$131,000,000, average price \$13.57; 1928 cost \$126,000,000, average price \$13.75.

In other words, the total cost to packers of cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep and lambs for the first 10 months of each year was \$90,000,000 higher in 1929 than in 1928, and practically all of this increase was represented in hogs.

The December pig survey indicates a total fall pig crop about like that of a year ago, though about 4 per cent larger in the Corn Belt. It suggests that the combined spring and fall pig crop of the Corn Belt may have been slightly larger in 1929 than in 1928. After making statistical allowances, the survey suggests that the number of sows to farrow next spring in the Corn Belt will not be greatly different from the number farrowing last spring.

The recent report on winter wheat acreage shows a 2 per cent increase in sowings this fall over last. This includes increases of 5 per cent in Kansas, 8 per cent in Texas, 20 per cent in Colorado, 25 per cent in Montana, and decreases in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and the Pacific coast.

THE TREND OF CROP PRODUCTION

Crop	5-year average, 1909-1913 production	5-year average, 1923-1927 production	1928 production	1929, Dec. 1 estimate
	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>
Winter wheat.....bushels..	443. 3	549	579	578
Spring wheat.....do.....	246. 8	260	336	128
All wheat.....do.....	690. 1	810	915	807
Corn.....do.....	2, 712. 4	2, 747	2, 819	2, 622
Oats.....do.....	1, 143. 4	1, 345	1, 439	1, 239
Barley.....do.....		209	357	307
Buckwheat.....do.....	17. 2	14	13	12
Flaxseed.....do.....	19. 6	23. 2	19. 9	16. 8
Potatoes, white.....do.....	357. 7	383	465	357
Sweet potatoes.....do.....	57. 4	78	78	85
Tobacco.....pounds..	996	1, 331	1, 375	1, 501
Peanuts.....do.....		718	1, 276	1, 360
Rice.....bushels..	23. 8	37	43	40
Hay, all tame.....tons..	67	93	93	102
Apples, total.....bushels..	176. 3	183	187	140
Apples, commercial.....barrels..		33	35	29
Peaches.....bushels..		52	68	46
Sugar beets.....tons.....		7. 5	7. 1	7. 7
Beans, dry.....bushels..		17	18	19
Grain sorghums.....do.....		123	143	101
Cotton.....bales..	13	14. 2	14. 5	14. 9

The area of crops harvested this year is estimated at 367,082,000 acres, an increase of a little more than 1 per cent over the 362,673,000 harvested in 1928. A large part of the increase being in hay.

Crop yields, however, were reduced by widespread drought and averaged 5.3 per cent less than those secured last season and 2.2 per cent less than the average during the preceding 10 years.

As a result of the lower yields, the production of principal crops was 4.8 per cent less than last year, but for farmers the reduced production appears to have been offset by higher prices, so that the increase in total value was nearly proportional to the increase in the acreage harvested.

AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

Product	5-year average August, 1909- July, 1914	Novem- ber average, 1910- 1914	Novem- ber, 1928	Octo- ber, 1929	Novem- ber, 1929
Cotton, per pound-----cents--	12. 4	12. 1	17. 8	17. 5	16. 2
Corn, per bushel-----do-----	64. 2	59. 4	75. 4	91. 9	81. 0
Wheat, per bushel-----do-----	88. 4	87. 3	97. 1	111. 5	103. 4
Hay, per ton-----dollars--	11. 87	11. 89	10. 89	11. 07	11. 18
Potatoes, per bushel-----cents--	69. 7	61. 4	56. 9	138. 2	134. 8
Oats, per bushel-----do-----	39. 9	38. 2	39. 8	44. 8	43. 1
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds					
-----dollars--	5. 22	5. 01	9. 27	8. 92	8. 63
Hogs, per 100 pounds-----do-----	7. 23	6. 96	8. 51	9. 10	8. 54
Eggs, per dozen-----cents--	21. 5	27. 6	39. 6	38. 4	44. 2
Butter, per pound-----do-----	25. 5	27. 4	45. 6	44. 9	44. 4
Butterfat, per pound-----do-----			47. 6	45. 6	43. 5
Wool, per pound-----do-----	17. 7	16. 9	35. 9	28. 6	28. 5
Veal calves, per 100 pounds					
-----dollars--	6. 75	6. 74	11. 99	12. 16	11. 80
Lambs, per 100 pounds-----do-----	5. 91	5. 31	11. 50	10. 97	10. 74
Horses, each-----do-----	142. 00	138. 00	79. 00	79. 00	78. 00

The United States average farm price of hogs continued on its downward trend from October 15 to November 15. Seasonal declines during this period were general throughout the country, bringing the level of hog prices at the farm to a point approximately 6 per cent below October 15, and only slightly higher than a year ago.

The general trend of the farm price of beef cattle was also downward from October 15 to November 15. A 3 per cent decline in the United States average farm price during this period dropped the reported value per hundredweight to a point 7 per cent below November, 1928. Although this decline was accompanied by a slight decline in cattle receipts at seven primary markets, receipts during the 4-week period ended November 16 were approximately 12 per cent larger than in the corresponding period for 1928.

A continuation of the congested storage situation at terminal markets, due to large visible supplies of wheat and the sharp decline in the prices of stocks, which temporarily affected all speculative markets, resulted in a 7 per cent decline in the United States average farm price of wheat from October 15 to November 15. At \$1.03 per bushel on November 15, the farm price of wheat was only about 7 per cent higher than the extremely low price paid producers on November 15, 1928.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	Whole-sale prices of all commodities ¹	Industrial wages ²	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—			Farm wages	Taxes ³
			Living	Production	Living production		
1910-----	103	-----	98	98	98	97	-----
1911-----	95	-----	100	103	101	97	-----
1912-----	101	-----	101	98	100	101	-----
1913-----	102	-----	100	102	100	104	-----
1914-----	100	-----	102	99	101	101	100
1915-----	103	101	107	103	106	102	102
1916-----	129	114	125	121	123	112	104
1917-----	180	129	148	152	150	140	106
1918-----	198	160	180	176	178	176	118
1919-----	210	185	214	192	205	206	130
1920-----	230	222	227	175	206	239	155
1921-----	150	203	165	142	156	150	217
1922-----	152	197	160	140	152	146	232
1923-----	156	214	161	142	153	166	246
1924-----	152	218	162	143	154	166	249
1925-----	162	223	165	149	159	168	250
1926-----	154	229	164	144	156	171	253
1927-----	149	231	161	144	154	170	258
1928-----	153	232	162	146	156	169	263
November—							
1921-----	143	191	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1922-----	158	205	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1923-----	155	218	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1924-----	155	218	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1925-----	160	226	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1926-----	151	230	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1927-----	152	226	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1928-----	151	233	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1929							
January-----	152	234	-----	-----	-----	162	-----
February-----	151	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
March-----	153	239	161	148	156	-----	-----
April-----	152	237	-----	-----	-----	167	-----
May-----	150	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June-----	151	236	160	146	155	-----	-----
July-----	154	235	-----	-----	-----	173	-----
August-----	153	237	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
September-----	153	240	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
October-----	151	237	-----	-----	-----	174	-----
November-----	148	233	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index for 1928 obtained by multiplying new series by 156.6.

² Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June, 1914=100.

³ Index of estimate of total taxes paid on all farm property, 1914=100.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August, 1909–July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought ¹	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	Cotton and cottonseed	All groups 30 items		
1910-----	104	91	103	100	104	113	103	98	106
1911-----	96	106	87	97	91	101	95	101	93
1912-----	106	110	95	103	101	87	99	100	99
1913-----	92	92	108	100	101	97	100	100	99
1914-----	103	100	112	100	105	85	102	101	101
1915-----	120	83	104	98	103	78	100	106	95
1916-----	126	123	120	102	116	119	117	123	95
1917-----	217	202	173	125	157	187	176	150	118
1918-----	226	162	202	152	185	245	200	178	112
1919-----	231	189	206	173	206	247	209	205	102
1920-----	231	249	173	188	222	248	205	206	99
1921-----	112	148	108	148	161	101	116	156	75
1922-----	105	152	113	134	139	156	124	152	81
1923-----	114	136	106	148	145	216	135	153	88
1924-----	129	124	109	134	147	211	134	154	87
1925-----	156	160	139	137	161	177	147	159	92
1926-----	129	189	146	136	156	122	136	156	87
1927-----	128	155	139	138	141	128	131	154	85
1928-----	130	146	150	140	150	152	139	156	90
November—									
1921-----	88	162	92	148	210	137	116	-----	-----
1922-----	106	101	108	140	187	186	126	-----	-----
1923-----	110	114	100	157	191	238	136	154	88
1924-----	147	108	115	132	203	179	137	156	88
1925-----	138	194	136	146	208	144	144	158	91
1926-----	121	142	142	141	202	88	130	155	84
1927-----	120	136	141	141	189	162	137	154	89
1928-----	110	109	150	144	185	146	134	155	86
1929									
January----	115	109	146	145	161	148	133	155	86
February----	123	111	150	144	158	149	136	156	88
March-----	124	112	160	144	144	155	140	156	90
April-----	120	110	164	142	127	152	138	155	89
May-----	113	119	164	139	134	148	136	155	88
June-----	111	120	163	135	140	146	135	154	87
July-----	122	136	167	135	143	145	140	² 154	² 90
August-----	129	160	165	137	151	146	143	² 154	² 92
September---	131	160	156	139	165	146	141	² 154	² 92
October----	128	168	151	141	181	141	140	² 154	² 91
November---	118	159	144	142	200	132	136	² 154	² 88

¹ These index numbers are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

² Preliminary.

THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, and sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this bureau:

Year and month	Receipts					
	Wheat	Corn	Hogs	Cattle	Sheep	Butter
Total—	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
1920	332, 314	210, 332	42, 121	22, 197	23, 538	402, 755
1921	435, 606	340, 908	41, 101	19, 787	24, 168	468, 150
1922	413, 106	378, 598	44, 068	23, 218	22, 364	526, 714
1923	386, 430	271, 858	55, 330	23, 211	22, 025	545, 380
1924	482, 007	278, 719	55, 414	23, 695	22, 201	587, 477
1925	346, 381	223, 604	43, 929	24, 067	22, 100	574, 489
1926	362, 876	234, 873	39, 772	23, 872	23, 868	572, 935
1927	455, 991	241, 245	41, 411	22, 763	23, 935	581, 592
1928	495, 450	335, 149	46, 527	21, 477	25, 597	578, 845
November—						
1920	37, 292	10, 374	3, 872	2, 428	2, 471	22, 288
1921	24, 342	14, 105	3, 687	1, 928	2, 068	30, 299
1922	41, 496	23, 037	4, 421	2, 427	2, 288	31, 529
1923	36, 576	23, 280	5, 416	2, 182	1, 816	33, 525
1924	58, 081	15, 231	4, 904	2, 363	1, 879	30, 162
1925	33, 948	19, 144	3, 844	2, 282	1, 712	35, 455
1926	28, 229	22, 587	3, 554	2, 460	1, 917	34, 180
1927	42, 394	15, 924	3, 666	2, 346	1, 896	33, 607
1928	40, 901	28, 641	4, 075	1, 963	2, 053	36, 616
1928						
December	31, 976	44, 128	4, 773	1, 510	1, 610	36, 863
1929						
January	21, 307	37, 993	5, 061	1, 635	1, 876	44, 922
February	26, 154	31, 818	3, 922	1, 191	1, 543	41, 557
March	25, 788	21, 775	3, 378	1, 445	1, 526	46, 186
April	16, 666	15, 152	3, 545	1, 748	2, 010	48, 707
May	17, 996	11, 249	3, 375	1, 653	2, 169	63, 259
June	23, 785	20, 818	3, 230	1, 443	1, 747	69, 511
July	88, 376	21, 120	3, 257	1, 659	2, 112	68, 104
August	97, 041	18, 414	2, 930	1, 616	2, 537	54, 885
September	45, 112	18, 664	3, 062	2, 099	3, 353	44, 500
October	34, 825	17, 863	3, 674	2, 401	4, 091	42, 963
November	19, 285	18, 692	3, 910	1, 939	2, 167	38, 228

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by division of statistical research of this bureau.

Year and month	Wheat including flour ¹	Tobacco leaf,	Bacon, hams, and shoulders ²	Lard	Total meats ³	Cotton, running bales ⁴
	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 bales</i>
Total—						
1920-----	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	1, 043, 000	6, 111
1921-----	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	786, 280	6, 385
1922-----	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	733, 832	6, 015
1923-----	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	958, 472	5, 224
1924-----	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	729, 832	6, 653
1925-----	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	547, 361	8, 362
1926-----	193, 861	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	428, 613	8, 916
1927-----	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	302, 795	9, 199
1928-----	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	315, 586	8, 546
November—						
1920-----	31, 209	26, 627	69, 129	57, 316	79, 335	681
1921-----	19, 813	29, 236	32, 425	51, 854	40, 586	630
1922-----	17, 890	39, 787	51, 407	62, 321	63, 357	856
1923-----	12, 503	49, 381	71, 947	74, 251	85, 069	762
1924-----	35, 425	44, 312	35, 430	49, 120	42, 393	1, 289
1925-----	8, 796	51, 141	31, 693	39, 979	37, 304	1, 196
1926-----	20, 545	49, 136	22, 384	43, 488	30, 177	1, 475
1927-----	27, 003	54, 407	13, 744	49, 636	17, 981	984
1928-----	16, 195	76, 938	14, 568	67, 716	20, 145	1, 428
1928						
December-----	12, 053	67, 583	18, 885	86, 358	23, 040	1, 058
1929						
January-----	9, 833	44, 166	24, 669	89, 932	31, 684	787
February-----	8, 948	48, 390	19, 512	65, 924	27, 129	613
March-----	9, 405	30, 602	23, 346	70, 572	31, 190	556
April-----	9, 151	39, 073	25, 062	59, 144	30, 748	454
May-----	16, 128	32, 202	27, 106	64, 192	33, 915	313
June-----	9, 003	28, 168	26, 895	67, 252	33, 903	299
July-----	13, 784	23, 459	24, 647	64, 274	32, 352	238
August-----	17, 338	40, 411	24, 743	55, 487	31, 764	226
September-----	18, 568	54, 385	19, 425	58, 339	26, 229	726
October-----	14, 926	77, 384	18, 151	70, 698	26, 520	1, 251
November-----	15, 412	71, 422	24, 219	83, 257	31, 394	1, 049

¹ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

² Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

³ Includes fresh, canned, and pickled beef; bacon, hams, and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

⁴ Excludes linters.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	November, 1928	October, 1929	November, 1929	Month's trend
PRODUCTION				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons)-	107	116	103	Decrease.
Bituminous coal (million tons)-	¹ 47	51	47	Do.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons)-	¹ 4, 267	4, 512	3, 513	Do.
CONSUMPTION				
Cotton by mills (thousand bales)-	¹ 611	641	544	Do.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons)-	3, 673	4, 087	4, 125	Increase.
Building contracts in 37 Northeastern States (million dollars)	471	446	391	Decrease.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands)-	¹ 2, 602	2, 310	2, 521	Increase.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands)-	1, 038	1, 168	957	Decrease.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands)-	1, 016	1, 326	994	Do.
MOVEMENTS				
Bank clearings (New York) (billion dollars)-	36	54	43	Do.
Carloadings (thousands)-	¹ 5, 144	4, 677	4, 892	Increase.
Mail-order sales (million dollars)	62	79	74	Decrease.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands)-	475	497	485	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars)-	316	396	275	Do.
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper, New York) (per cent)-	5. 38	6. 25	5. 75	Do.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor) ² -	157	¹ 161	160	Do.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor) ³ -	¹ 96	96	94	Do.

¹ Revised.² 1913=100.³ 1926=100.

Data on this page, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[December 1 holdings; shows nearest millions, i. e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	Dec. 1, 1929
Apples.....barrels--	¹ 9, 116	¹ 10, 392	¹ 7, 997	¹ 9, 387
Creamery butter.....pounds--	79	71	138	112
American cheese.....do-----	63	74	78	71
Case eggs.....cases--	¹ 3, 320	¹ 3, 542	¹ 4, 930	¹ 2, 630
Total poultry.....pounds--	89	79	87	116
Total beef.....do-----	81	80	72	93
Total pork.....do-----	416	462	491	489
Lard.....do-----	46	67	100	68
Lamb and mutton, frozen.....do-----	3	5	5	5
Total meats.....do-----	558	607	632	660

¹ Three figures omitted.

Cold-storage holdings of apples were the equivalent of 9,387,000 barrels. This compares with 10,392,000 barrels for the same date a year ago and a 5-year average of 9,116,000 barrels.

Stocks of creamery butter were 111,617 pounds, a reduction during November of 26,788,000. The movement during November, 1928, was 34,826,000 pounds, and the 5-year average movement has been 32,224,000. The holdings were in excess of last year by 40,632,000 pounds and of the 5-year average by 32,782,000.

American cheese stocks moved out of storage at the rate of 6,848,000 pounds for the month. This compares with a similar movement last year of 7,993,000 pounds. Holdings were less than those of a year ago by nearly 3,000,000 pounds, but in excess of the 5-year average by about 8,000,000. Total stocks of all cheese were over 3,000,000 less than last year and something over 6,000,000 above the 5-year average.

The out-movement of case eggs was 2,300,000 cases, which compares with 2,705,000 cases a year ago. The 5-year average movement has been 2,522,000. Stocks were below last year by 912,000 cases and below the 5-year average by 690,000.

The movement of frozen eggs was 8,560,000 pounds compared with a movement during November last year of 9,126,000 pounds. Holdings were 2,430,000 pounds less than a year ago, being the equivalent of 1,764,886 cases.

The into-storage movement of poultry was 28,945,000 pounds. This compares with that of a year ago of 21,080,000 pounds. The average movement has been 32,311,000. Holdings were in excess of last year by 36,645,000 and of the 5-year average by 26,672,000 pounds.

WILLIAM BROXTON,
Cold Storage Report Section, B. A. E.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Million pounds, 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

Products	November			January to November, inclusive		
	1929	1928 ¹	Per cent change	1929	1928 ¹	Per cent change
Creamery butter----	91	88	+3.3	1,419	1,395	+1.8
Farm butter-----	36	36	-1.7	544	553	-1.7
Total butter-----	127	124	+1.8	1,963	1,948	+0.8
Cheese-----	23	26	-13.1	352	414	-14.9
Condensed and evaporated milk--	107	96	+12.0	1,949	1,806	+7.9
Total milk equivalent-----	3,149	3,118	+1.0	49,614	49,550	+0.1

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Butter-----	153	159	-3.6	1,894	1,923	-1.4
Cheese-----	37	43	-12.7	418	457	-8.6
Condensed and evaporated milk--	118	98	+21.2	1,744	1,682	+3.7
Total milk equivalent-----	3,883	4,007	-3.1	48,309	49,146	-1.7

¹ Corrected to final figures.

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Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IN 1929

From the point of view of total gross returns to cattle producers, 1929 was about as favorable as 1928. The best measure of this is the total cost to buyers of cattle and calves slaughtered under Federal inspection. For the 10 months, January to October, inclusive, this total cost this year was practically the same as last year. The average price of cattle for those months was \$10.82 this year and \$10.76 last year; of calves \$12.87 this year and \$12.29 last year. The number of head of cattle slaughtered this year was about 1 per cent

smaller, but the average weight per head was a little larger. The number of calves slaughtered was about 4 per cent smaller and the average weight per head about the same.

Slaughter of both cattle and calves in November and December this year was smaller than for these months last year and the average price of each was somewhat less. The total cost of cattle and calves bought for slaughter during the 12 months will be a little less this year than last but the total slaughter will be about 3 per cent less.

These figures, however, do not tell the whole story of returns to cattle producers, since they only indicate what cattle producers received for cattle and calves actually slaughtered. They do not show returns to cattle producers who sell stocker and feeder cattle nor net returns to cattle feeders. To understand how different kinds of cattle producers fared during the year, the situation of each should be considered separately.

The year 1929 will not be looked back to by cattle feeders as a profitable one, while 1928 was one of the most profitable on record. Because 1928 was so profitable largely explains why 1929 was mainly unprofitable. The unusual profits in 1928 were due to the fact that the feeding operations of that year were conducted during a period of rapidly advancing cattle prices. Feeding cattle bought in the fall of 1927 and early in 1928 were bought at the beginning of this general cattle price advance and to the usual feeding margins were added a large increment of the general price advance.

The profits of feeding during the first nine months of 1928 made cattle feeders strong buyers of unfinished cattle and prices of such cattle advanced rapidly, due in part to widespread speculative activity in such cattle. As a result, feeding cattle during the last half of 1928 were bought at a high level of prices; a level so high that most feeders who bought during the high-price period in 1928 lost money and even those who bought after feeder cattle prices broke in September, 1928, made but little profits.

The feeders who did the best in 1929 were those who bought calves and light yearlings late in 1928 and marketed them during August and September, 1929. Among those whose operations were most unprofitable were those who bought fairly heavy feeders in the spring of 1929 and marketed these as medium or heavy weight cattle after the 1st of November.

The experience of cattle grazers in the two years was much the same as that of cattle feeders. Cattle bought in the late winter and spring of 1928 and pastured and sold in the late summer and early fall made large profits. As a result, high prices were paid for cattle in the spring of 1929, which were sold in the fall at a lower level than in the fall of 1928 and in most cases were sold at a loss.

Beef cattle growers, also, did not find 1929 as profitable a year as 1928, this applying largely to the western cattle producing areas. In the first place, feed costs in the winter of 1928-29, due to the long cold winter, were much above normal and losses were probably a little above average. As a whole, range conditions were not as good in 1929 as in 1928 and cattle did not make quite as good growth. But the most important factor was the lower level of prices for nearly all kinds of grass cattle, both stockers and feeders and slaughter cattle, the last six months of 1929, compared to 1928.

The cattle growers whose returns from sales in 1929 were above those of 1928 were the dairymen. The higher levels of prices of veal calves and of low-grade cows and bologna bulls, which prevailed over most of 1929, brought larger total returns for a smaller number of such animals sold this year. During the last three months of the year, however, these prices were generally at a lower level than during those months in 1928.

In spite of the generally unfavorable outcome of cattle-feeding operations in 1929, there was a good demand for unfinished cattle during the last half of the year. Total shipments of such cattle into the Corn Belt States for five months, July to November, inclusive, were larger this year than last. Compared with these months last year, however, the movement was later. To the end of September, only about 80 per cent as many as last year had been shipped in, by the end of October, 92 per cent, and by the end of November last year's shipments were exceeded. The shipments during November were unusually heavy, being the largest for the month since 1923.

While prices paid this year during these five months were below last year, they were about as high in relation to fed-cattle prices prevailing during this period.

Whether feeding operations this winter and spring turn out better than a year earlier depends largely upon the level of fat-cattle prices. With cost of feed this winter higher than last year, fed-cattle prices during the first half of 1930 only as high as during that period in 1929 will not result in very large feeding margins.

Some tendency to expand cattle production during 1929 is indicated by a comparison of the kind of cattle slaughtered in the two years. In 1929 calf slaughter was smaller than in 1928, although the calf crop was probably about the same in the two years. While cattle slaughter in 1929 was about 135,000 head less than in 1928, this decrease was entirely in slaughter of cows and heifers. The slaughter of steers was about the same in the two years.

C. L. HARLAN,
Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, B. A. E.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR IN VARIOUS STATES

(Reports from State Representatives of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of this Bureau)

NEW JERSEY

The season of 1929 has been generally unsatisfactory for those engaged in general farming and dairying. Severe drought prevailed during the entire summer and was not broken until the latter part of August.

Pastures were very poor, and the hay crop was 76,000 tons short of 1928 and 60,000 tons less than the average production for the past five years. This year's corn crop was estimated at 6,588,000 bushels, which is 340,000 short of last year and 1,363,000 bushels less than the 5-year average. The wheat crop was about 22,000 bushels short of last year and 39,000 bushels less than the 5-year average production. Oats were also 90,000 bushels short of the 1928 crop and 161,000

less than the 5-year average. As a result of the general shortage of hay and grain crops, dairy farmers were forced to spend considerable in the unseasonable purchase of feeds.

The yield of white potatoes this season was estimated at 6,032,000 bushels, or over 3,000,000 bushels short of the 1928 production. Due to the general short crop in the country as a whole, prices for white potatoes were more satisfactory and growers are better off this year than they were last year when prices in many instances were below the cost of production. The sweetpotato crop this season amounted to 2,100,000 bushels, which is about 75,000 bushels less than last year's estimated production.

The total production of apples this season was estimated at 1,880,000 bushels as compared with 3,290,000 bushels harvested in 1928 and 2,934,000 bushels, the average production for the 5-year period 1923 to 1927. Despite the high prices received this year, producers of apples, as a whole, have had an unsatisfactory season because volume of production was small.

The peach crop this season was estimated at 2,600,000 bushels, or 970,000 more than was produced in 1928 and 163,000 bushels more than the 5-year average. The crop was short in the country as a whole, and, as a result, New Jersey growers received a much better price than could have otherwise been expected.

Tomatoes for manufacture were also much better than was expected earlier in the season. Rains the latter part of August saved the crop, and the final estimate for this season was 224,000 tons, which is about 106,000 more than the extremely short crop of last season. The demand was strong and good prices were realized. The production of such vegetable crops as tomatoes for market, peppers, string beans, lima beans, etc., was higher and prices a little lower than in the season of 1928.

On the whole, we may characterize this year as poor for general and dairy farmers, more or less successful for growers of white potatoes, peaches, and tomatoes for manufacture, and about an average year for other vegetable producers.

G. L. MORGAN.

VIRGINIA

The income of Virginia farmers for 1929 is expected to exceed their 1928 income by 10 or 15 per cent. This increase is largely due to better prices received for early potatoes and for dark tobacco.

Owing to the great diversity of agriculture in this State, it is very difficult to make a general statement that will cover the situation fully. The season was generally favorable for crop growth although the northern and eastern parts of the State suffered severe loss from the dry weather during July and August. Weather conditions during May and June were too wet and cool for planting cotton, corn, and peanuts, but the fall season was unusually favorable for maturing and harvesting of these crops.

The principal money crops are potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and trucks in the eastern section, tobacco in the central and southern counties; peanuts and cotton in the southeastern section; wheat in the northern and western, and apples in the northern and central counties. Prices for early potatoes and sweetpotatoes averaged better than in 1928,

but prices for most truck crops were not considered profitable. Peanut and cotton prices have averaged lower than last year, but the production is larger and will almost be sufficient to hold up the income to last year's figure. The tobacco crop was about 15 per cent greater than in 1928 and the average price for all types is expected to be slightly higher, so the total income will be fully 15 per cent greater. The yield of wheat was below the average and prices were slightly lower than last year, so the income from this crop was lower. The commercial apple crop was about 15 per cent smaller than last year, but prices were much better, and the total income will be slightly larger.

Livestock is the principal source of income in the southwestern section and in many counties in the northern and western parts of the State. While cattle prices will average about the same or slightly higher than last year, producers of heavy cattle received lower prices. Prices for lambs and wool were lower, but the production was about 12 per cent greater, so the total income is slightly larger. The dairy industry continued to expand in all parts of the State, and the increase in production more than offset the slightly lower prices. The poultry industry had a fairly successful year, as egg prices were generally better than a year ago although the number of hens was about 10 per cent smaller. There was an increase of nearly 15 per cent in the production of chickens and turkeys. Prices, however, were much lower, so the growers received very little if any increase in income over last year.

As compared with previous years, the dark tobacco section in the central part of the State probably shows the greatest increase, as prices for this type are the highest since 1925.

A brief summary of the results during 1929 shows the yields of most crops slightly above the average with prices generally above last year, with a total income of 10 to 15 per cent greater.

Farm land values probably reached their lowest point early in 1929 and have shown a slight improvement during the year. The demand for farms has improved slightly, but there are still many farms for sale. In the most productive sections agriculture is improving, while in a few districts some land is still being abandoned.

HENRY M. TAYLOR.

MICHIGAN

A more optimistic feeling than in other recent years seems to prevail in most sections of the State. This is especially true in the commercial fruit, bean, and potato sections. The apple crop was larger and brought better prices than in 1928; while peaches, grapes, pears, and cherries brought much better prices and were handled with smaller labor costs which largely or fully offset the smaller production.

Bean prices, up to November 15, have been above those for the corresponding months of last year, the crop was nearly as large as in 1928, and the quality is the best in several years. While many farmers have held their beans in the hope of higher prices and this fact has undoubtedly strengthened the market situation, a heavy influx of foreign beans since October 1 has apparently forced prices downward to the extent of about 25 per cent. The general feeling

among bean growers is that the present import duty of \$1.75 per hundred pounds on beans is entirely inadequate for their protection.

While many potato growers harvested very few potatoes, those who succeeded in raising an appreciable amount over home requirements obtained, in most cases, considerably more income with less labor cost than they derived from last year's large crop.

The State experienced its most severe drought in 35 years. As a result, the only major crops returning better than average yields were winter wheat and hay. The production of the latter was the largest on record. Livestock and livestock products have brought generally good prices. Dairy and poultry products, which comprise a large percentage of the cash sales from the farm, have stabilized the seasonal income, greatly to the advantage of Michigan farmers during the agricultural depression of the last few years.

A shortage of grain feed is forcing more livestock than usual on to the markets in an unfinished condition and is apparently curtailing the feeding of western steers and lambs this winter. Much fall plowing was done, as late crops were harvested early under favorable weather conditions; and the outlook is favorable for a good acreage of spring crops.

V. H. CHURCH.

NEBRASKA

Crop production is above the average in Nebraska, due not only to a 2 per cent increase in acreage of crops but also to yields 4 per cent above the 10-year average. With the exception of winter wheat, most of the crops finally turned out better than expected. Sugar beets, barley, and flax are making new high records.

Market receipts of swine increased 2 per cent, sheep 12 per cent, and cattle decreased 2 per cent. Prices of livestock were on high levels with a downward tendency during the latter part of the year.

Corn, the leading crop, exceeded expectations and is considerably above the average. Winter wheat is far below expectations but slightly above the average. Oats were exceptionally good. Barley is making a new record, and the production is more than two and one-half times the average crop. Alfalfa yields were very good, and hay crops are considerably above last year. Potatoes are above expectations, and shipments may set a new record.

While prices in general were satisfactory, the prices of leading commodities from which the bulk of the farm revenue is derived were headed downward by autumn. Hog prices, especially, were disappointing. Grain-fat cattle brought poorer returns last spring, due to the abnormally high prices of feeders the previous fall. The reduction in feeder-cattle prices the past fall was a disappointment to range cattle producers. Butterfat brought good prices until November when a marked slump came. Egg prices have been good, but poultry prices were unsatisfactory at the close of the year.

The supply of hogs is about the same as a year ago; sheep feeding is expected to exceed last year, and cattle feeding may approximate last year's operations. Feeding sheep arrived earlier last fall in contrast to feeding cattle which were late. Cattle feeders held off, due not only to the uncertain outcome of the corn crop but also to a determination to reduce operations unless corn and feeder-cattle prices were more favorable.

While the livestock industry is still on a profitable basis, there is a little apprehension as to the future, due to a downward tendency of prices, particularly hogs, as farmers had expected considerably better prices. The marked decrease in butterfat price last month was unexpected for this season and is causing some anxiety as to the future of the dairy industry which has been one of the most profitable since the general price slump in Nebraska. As 70 per cent of the gross farm income is derived from livestock and its products, the future of Nebraska agriculture is linked closely with the future prices of livestock, and the situation at the close of the year is not so good as it was at the beginning.

A. E. ANDERSON.

KANSAS

When one paints the past year of Kansas agricultural production, the picture is rather drab. There are no deep, dark shadows. The nearest approach to a high light is the constant procession of fat hogs moving to market during the year. Almost every field crop fell below the records of the past two years in acre returns. There were no high prices for products of the field to relieve the monotony of the picture.

The spring season of 1929 started favorably. Winter wheat had come through a severe winter with only modest losses in acreage and these losses well distributed. Early moisture was ample but soon became too plentiful in the eastern counties. Small spring grains were planted with little difficulty, but preparation of seed beds and planting of corn and sorghum crops were delayed beyond dates of safety and assurance of successful outcome. Wheat developed a multiplicity of diseases and insect enemies that curtailed yield and lowered quality. Off to a late start, the tilled crops came up to the July stretch with appearance of admirable vitality, but a protracted heat wave from mid-July to late August sapped their strength. Even the advantageous rainfall and temperatures of late summer and early fall were insufficient to restore their early promise, and the final outcome was generally only fair to unsatisfactory.

Forage crop yields were much lower than in 1928. The acreage of every hay and forage crop was curtailed—in some cases intentionally, in others by natural causes. Alfalfa acreage suffered heavy winter decimation in 1928-29. Web worms injured second and third cuts. Heavy acreage of winter wheat in western Kansas coupled with light abandonment cut the usual acreage of sweet sorghum forage. Heat and lack of sufficient moisture in late July and most of August shortened up the acre returns on all late-maturing forage crops. Locally there seems possibility of actual deficiency of roughage for livestock before the winter is over. So far, a heavy top growth of new wheat, and well cured buffalo grass in western Kansas, combined with fairly open grazing weather have conserved the rather short supplies of reserve forage.

Although the yields of oats and barley were lighter than last year, the supply is generally sufficient for farm needs considering the ever lessening demand for these feeds caused by decrease in the horse and mule population. Northwestern Kansas has a fairly normal surplus of cash barley of fair grade. Corn and grain sorghum supplies are

well distributed over the State even though the totals are less than last year.

On minor and locally specialized crops Kansas fared generally as well or better than last year. Apples, pears, peaches, and bush fruits all yielded better than last year and brought fairly profitable prices. The flax crop of southeastern Kansas was on a smaller acreage than last year and yielded about average. About the same acreage of broomcorn as in 1928, in southwestern Kansas, yielded a little less per acre but brought decidedly more satisfactory price. Sugar beets, in the irrigated section of the Arkansas Valley, yielded normally and were at the same contract base as for 1928.

Where livestock enters the picture there is a faint illumination, at least as regards numbers disposed of through the markets. The sustained procession of fat hogs moving down to the river packers or to slaughter centers within the State is really inspiring. Ten years of reliable statistics on livestock market disposal show that this is the first year when Kansas never fell below the 200,000 mark in hog delivery in a single month.

The orderliness of the disposal of Kansas hogs is almost a triumph of the breeder's and feeder's art. There were no market gluts; there were no prolonged periods of shortage so far as Kansas was concerned in supplying the demand for pork. For the first 11 months of 1929 the average marketings were 257,000 head of hogs per month, with a fluctuation from 207,000 in March to a peak of 307,000 head in May. The total to December 1 is 25 per cent greater than for the same period of 1928.

The 11-month record shows almost the same number of cattle and calves marketed as in 1928. Prices have ranged generally lower than breeders and feeders anticipated. Supply of cattle within the State continues to increase. The big cattle clean-up that reached a peak of disposal in 1923, and continued until 1926, was followed by a healthy recuperation in numbers and in breeding potentialities. There is little or no tendency to increase grain-fattening operations—a short corn crop and unattractive cattle markets do not encourage it. Careful winter roughing, and watchfulness to profit by any advantageous market fluctuations, seem to be the tendency.

Increase in farm sheep flocks and in short-term feeding characterized the 1929 operations in Kansas. The market disposal of sheep and lambs for the first 11 months of the year were about 11 per cent above 1928. The annual totals will probably show the largest market movement in 10 years.

The foundation for 1930 has already been laid. Excellent moisture conditions in all except the eastern quarter of the State have induced a wheat acreage materially larger than was seeded a year ago. Top growth and general appearance of the new acreage is one of the best in recent years—perhaps the most attractive since 1918. Seeding averaged early; volunteer wheat is plentiful; fall brood of fly was sufficiently large to cause some anxiety; the excellent pasturage afforded has been highly appreciated and well utilized. Much virgin sod was turned for wheat the past fall in the west, and the fall start augurs well. There is an echo of pessimism in the sad experience with wheat-straw worm that lowered the 1929 returns. Extensive use of combines, that leave all of the old straw on the fields in the

plains area of light rainfall, has apparently harbored and encouraged this insect enemy.

On the whole, 1929 was just a drab year for Kansas agriculture—some light to relieve the gray—but no deep gloom.

EDWARD C. PAXTON.

MINNESOTA

It now is very evident that Minnesota farmers will enjoy the benefits of a larger gross farm return from the crop-year sales of 1929-30 and the calendar year for milk, eggs, and livestock than for the same period one year ago. This increase appears to be quite substantial, although all data are not yet available.

Every one of the nine principal crops will show an increase in gross farm value, based on December 1 prices, over last year. The outstanding increase is in the potato crop, the value of which this year will be nearly three times as large as in 1928. The gross farm value of milk and eggs also will show some slight increase, and marketings of livestock will boost the balance in favor of this year.

One outstanding feature this year, which is highly gratifying both from a standpoint of State pride and the resulting economic value, is that Minnesota ranks fourth in corn production in the United States. So stands the situation for the State as a whole.

By districts, the southern half of the State will fare better than the central and northern districts. In the southern half the crop season was generally favorable. This also is quite a dairy and livestock section. The central district also is a large producer of dairy products and livestock, but the dry season curtailed the summer and fall pasturage and the hay crop was small. Corn and grain crops were not the best. In the northern districts, the potato crop, while short, gave a good income; but hay, pastures and grain crops, especially hay and pastures, were below average. It is barely possible, should the winter be long and the spring late, that hay and feed in this district will have to be purchased.

It will be seen, therefore, that farm income is not so well distributed this year and, unfortunately, the northern and central districts for the past two years have carried the brunt of this unequal distribution of gross farm income. However, one of the outstanding farm leaders in the State gives it as his opinion that, while the financial status of Minnesota farmers is improving, the greatest advance has been made this year in their morale. Hope for future betterment seems bright, notwithstanding the fact that their past and present obligations are not by any means cut down to a point where they can be termed satisfactory.

PAUL H. KIRK.

SOUTH DAKOTA

From the standpoint of crop production, 1929 was a below-average year in South Dakota. The composite yield of all crops was about 15 per cent below average, according to the latest figures published by the department. The composite yield this year is approximately the same as in 1928. Certain crops yielded better than last year, but this was offset by lower yield from other crops.

The season started off auspiciously with very favorable weather and soil conditions at planting time. As a result, the expansion of crop acreage which has been going on for several years, continued, and acreage planted this year showed a considerable increase over that planted in 1928.

During the late spring and early summer, drought was experienced in the principal wheat areas of the State, causing lowered yields of small grains and considerable crop failure. Abandonment of flax was greater than that of any other crop, as this crop was also damaged by another period of dry weather in August. This latter drought did considerable damage to the corn crop in practically all parts of the State except the two eastern tiers of counties.

Because of higher prices than last year the total farm value of grain crops, hay, and potatoes was about 16 per cent greater than last year. This statement is based on the October and November crop reports and the November 15 farm prices. On this basis the farm value of the principal crops (i. e. corn, wheat, oats, barley, flax, potatoes, and tame hay) was \$177,884,000 this year.

The results of the spring pig survey showed the State's spring pig crop to be about 8 per cent less than in 1928 and indicated little or no increase in fall farrowings, as compared with last year. The 1929 lamb crop was somewhat larger than last year because of a larger number of breeding ewes this year.

The range area of the State is going into the winter with only fair prospects for winter ranges. The quality of range feed is below average because of fall rains which caused the grass to green up just before the first frosts. There will be no surplus of hay and feed in the range area and deficits may occur in some sections if the winter is severe. Stock lost flesh to some extent during November but is still in good condition.

JOSEPH L. ORR.

UTAH

The year 1929 was on the whole more favorable to Utah agriculture than 1928, for prices of some main crops averaged somewhat higher. The total gross valuation of all Utah's crops in 1929 is estimated at approximately \$2,000,000 (or 5 per cent) greater than the total for 1928.

The season of 1929 was deficient in moisture up to midsummer, and this tended to lower the yields of all small grains, of early potatoes, and the first cutting of alfalfa hay. Other crops also felt the restricted supply of soil moisture. Alfalfa seed suffered most, for the blooms were killed early in the summer; and when the rains came late in July, the new growth was unfavorable to the formation of seed pods, thus resulting in one of the poorest yields in the history of the seed industry in the State. The rains of late summer brought the yields of the late crops up to a good average, and the unusually late date for the first killing frost of the fall added nearly a month to the growing season for sugar beets, potatoes, and other late crops. The tree fruits were seriously injured by frosts late in the spring, especially the apple crop.

The past season showed a continued tendency to increase the acreage of the feed grains. Utah imports considerable quantities of

corn from the Middle West to supplement the home-grown feed, and this increase in oats and barley acreage is due to an effort to replace this imported grain with home produce.

All but a small number of the State's sheep and many of the cattle are kept on pasturage without much or any supplementary feeding. Sheep spend the summer on the ranges up in high altitudes and the winter is spent on the desert. The latter grazing ground requires snow for the sheep to drink, for there is not enough water there. So, unless there is just enough snow and not too much on the desert range, sheep must be kept near water, and consequently they can not be taken out where there is enough grazing for their use. This results in a need for supplementary feeding of grain and hay, when the grazing near water holes is exhausted. And the occurrence of such seasons is what makes it very desirable for the Utah stockmen to increase their supply of feed grain and hay. A year ago it was feed and not water that was lacking on the desert range.

The 1929 season indicated a tendency to increase the production of certain truck crops, including cabbage, cauliflower, and onions; due partly to encouraging prices in past seasons and partly to the excellent yields obtained in the main producing areas.

The numbers of bearing trees of peaches and cherries are increasing, and the new trees are of standard commercial varieties. Little or no change is noted in the apple trees, and the general tendency in the past few years has been rather to pull up orchards than to plant new ones. However, there is an increase in the Delicious variety in the State, for it sells on the local market at prices far above the other varieties grown here.

Cattle prices were somewhat under those of last year, but much above the low prices which prevailed for several years following the slump of 1921 and 1922. However, there is not much tendency as yet to increase herds. Marketings have been relatively heavy for the past two or three years, or longer. Last winter and spring, grazing was so scant and hay and feed prices so high that stockmen were induced to sell more heavily than they might otherwise have done.

The sheep owners had a hard season last winter and spring, for the winter grazing was very scant, the cool spring delayed the summer pastures, and the purchases of hay, grain, and seed cake involved a great addition to the usual expenses of the flocks. This scarcity of feed resulted in a poor condition of the sheep with a resulting low lamb crop and small wool clip. The season was one of high costs of production and low yields.

The present outlook for grazing on the winter range depends entirely upon the snow, if any, of this month and next. Up to the 1st of December, snow was lacking on the desert and sheep were being held near water, awaiting an opportunity to be moved back where grazing will be good if only there is something for the sheep to drink. The rains of late summer and early fall made an excellent growth of forage on these desert ranges.

FRANK ANDREWS.

NEVADA

The 1929 season in Nevada was very dry, with a scant supply of irrigation water, except in a few favored localities. The supply of

hay and feed grains is considerably under last season and is distributed unevenly. Potato yields in eastern Nevada were quite low, but in some of the main commercial sections of western Nevada there were some very large yields, two big ranches averaging about 400 bushels per acre on about 160 acres.

The sheep of Nevada suffered from the scant feed on the winter range last winter and spring, thus yielding a very small lamb crop and a low wool clip. The expenses due to purchasing hay, grain, and seedcake made the cost of production unusually high for Nevada lambs and wool for the season of 1929. There are more lambs being fed for market in Nevada now than a year ago. The number estimated for December 1, 1929, is about 49,000, compared with 44,500 a year ago. Many of these will probably be marketed before the end of the current calendar year.

Nevada cattle have been marketed to such an extent in the past few years that local opinion points to a material reduction in their numbers. Also the number of cattle on feed for market in Nevada on December 1, 1929, was considerably less than a year ago. These are fattened for shipment to California packing houses.

Poultry is an important industry in Nevada. The turkey crop alone is one of the leading cash crops of the State. All but a small fraction of this crop is dressed and marketed through producers' cooperative associations operating as a unit. The crop of 1929 was sold at a price higher than most of the other turkey crops of the West. Nevada turkeys are graded strictly and sold under a brand which is recognized in the trade at large.

The season for agriculture in Nevada closes with a gloomy outlook for irrigation water, but rains and snows of the coming months may develop a good supply before spring.

FRANK ANDREWS.

NORTH CAROLINA

When a State has an average rainfall of approximately 50 inches per annum and a temperature varying from zero to 100°, and when cash crops highly sensitive to frosts are grown on large scales, the weather factor becomes of prime importance in analyzing the crop situation.

The past 12 months in North Carolina have been unusual, in that the winter of 1928-29 was extremely mild and free of severely cold-weather periods. The winter permitted more land preparation than for many years past. Small grains grew under ideal conditions. The spring was rather early, permitting advantageous activity by farmers and particularly by truck growers. There was a minimum of poor stands and abandonment. The summer growing season was regarded as above the average in the western two-thirds of the State, while most of the East, and particularly the northern half of the coastal plain belt suffered from too much rainfall. The fall season had an abundance of rainfall but had enough good weather to permit the harvesting of all crops without material weather damage. Altogether the year was favorable in the West and unfavorable in the East.

Crop changes showed a slight decline in the corn acreage, which makes up a third of the total cultivated acreage in North Carolina. Wheat was increased 3 per cent and oats about 40 per cent, due to the previous year's shortage from winter killing. Barley continued to

make tremendous gains; Irish potatoes declined about 25 per cent, due to unsatisfactory prices the preceding year; tobacco made an increase of 6 per cent in acreage, in spite of the steady decline in price trends since 1920, while cotton remained about the same. It was an unusually good year for hay crops, which showed an increase in the acreage and yield.

The commercial truck crop situation showed a material decline in the acreage of snap beans, cantaloupes, carrots, lettuce, English peas, spinach, strawberries, and peppers. Increases were made in fall snap beans, cabbage, and sweet corn. The yields of truck crops were generally unfavorable, although cabbage, sweet corn, lettuce, and peppers yielded better than for the previous year.

The commercial apple crop showed about half the production of the preceding year. This condition was about the same for the agricultural crop. The commercial peach crop yielded about 40 per cent of the preceding year's production, while the agricultural crop was about 50 per cent. It seemed almost impossible to combat successfully the curculio, which resulted in wormy peaches due to the inability to keep insecticides on the fruit. The rains were frequent during that period.

From the pecan survey made recently, it was found that far more pecan trees of bearing age are being grown in the State than was previously realized. On the other hand, the yield per tree was less than was recognized.

Hay crops showed unusually good yields, due to abundance of moisture. Particular interest has been evident in sweet clover and lespedeza. Alfalfa has made heavy gains in the clover class. Among the annual legumes, cowpeas have declined heavily, while soybeans and peanuts made appreciable gains in acreage. As a whole, the hay crops gained about 3 per cent in acreage and 7 per cent in yield.

From an economic standpoint, North Carolina farmers are in a most trying condition. The reason for this is that most of the cash crops have not brought a return equal to the cost of production. Tenants and landlords have suffered heavily for several years. There is no avenue apparent to them whereby they may plant with the expectation of profit during the coming year. Supply merchants who usually "furnish" them with cash, provisions and fertilizers have also lost, so that credit will be on a minimum basis for 1930. Even the Federal Land Bank is extremely cautious with its loans, as many foreclosures have been necessary. One bright spot in the situation is that more interest is being taken in livestock and particularly in poultry and hogs.

FRANK PARKER.

GEORGIA

Excessive rains and unfavorable temperatures early in the season delayed farming operations throughout the State and made replanting of cotton necessary in many areas of middle and southern Georgia. However, most field crops got off to a better start than under the equally bad conditions of 1928. Showery weather during late summer favored the boll weevil in all but northern Georgia and considerable damage resulted, especially in middle State territory. Some storm and wet weather injury occurred to crops in central and eastern

areas in the early fall. Heavy rains during November caused some damage to late crops still in the field in northern Georgia.

Cotton, our major cash crop, is exceeding 1928 production by about 30 per cent, although owing to lower prices total current value will not show this large an increase. Peanuts, tobacco, and watermelons, three of south Georgia's substitute cash crops, all show substantial increases in production. While the first-mentioned crop is bringing rather low prices, the gain of about 18 per cent in estimated production will account for value fully equal to that of last season. Tobacco, with 6 per cent greater production, brought about \$5,600,000 more than last year, or an increase of more than 50 per cent.

Watermelon shipments of about 21,700 cars were more than 20 per cent above 1928. Due to lack of competition from the unusually poor fruit crops, and orderly rate of ripening in Florida and commercial section of this State, this crops brought unusually good prices. Sweet potato and sugar-cane production show increases of 15 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, over last season.

Fruits and pecans were very poor. Following the bumper crops of 1928, low production was to be expected. Also, heavy and continuous rains at blooming time with considerable wind injury during the early season accounted for additional reduction. Peaches showed about 29 per cent of 1928 production, apples 50 per cent, and pecans less than 40 per cent.

Farmers are generally well supplied with feed for the coming year. The corn crop was about one-third greater than last season's unusually poor out-turn, while oats showed an increase of about 60 per cent. Hay is around 15 per cent below 1928 as the cowpea acreage suffered a heavy cut due to high prices of seed and demands of other crops on labor at planting time.

Taking the State as a whole, farmers are better fortified with cash and supply crops than on this date one year ago. North Georgia has not quite held its own, while the greater part of the central territory—with the exception of peach growers—made substantial gains over the poor yields of last season. Southern Georgia is in the best shape of any section of the State, due to a greater diversity of cash crops that made good yields this year.

D. L. FLOYD.

ALABAMA

Despite floods in March and droughts during the growing season, the former covering a large section in south Alabama and the latter an important section in the northern portion of the State, Alabama farmers have this year cultivated more acres and produced larger crops of greater value than in 1928.

Increases in production were accomplished in cotton, corn, peanuts, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, oats, and sirup. Decreased production occurred in hay, soybeans, white potatoes, and in all fruits and nuts except Satsuma oranges.

The aggregate value of crops produced this year exceeds in value of last year by about \$15,000,000, while the value of fruits and nuts fell off but little over \$1,000,000.

The acre yields of crops in most instances were greater this year than last. In the case of cotton, whose acre yield was considerably

greater than last year, the increase is attributed to the heavier and more intelligent use of fertilizers. Differences in the acre yield of other crops are explained by variations in climatic conditions.

Increased acreage occurred in most crops, notable exceptions being in Irish potatoes and in hay. The aggregate crop acreage this year was about 100,000 more than last year.

Prices in farm commodities were generally lower this season. Exceptions to this rule were found in hay, cowpeas, soybeans, and Irish potatoes. Fruit prices were also slightly higher except for Satsuma oranges. The latter crop was more than five times the value of last year, the price being slightly less.

Altogether the Alabama farmer has come through the season with fair results of his labor, but with an aggregate income still somewhat below that to which he is entitled.

F. W. GIST.

FLORIDA

The citrous crop of 1928-29 was the largest in the history of the State and came into competition with a record California crop. As a result, price per box was much below that for 1927-28 when the crop was unusually short. Following this record crop, there was a light setting of fruit for the present season.

The discovery of the Mediterranean fruit fly for a time threatened to prevent the shipment of the greater proportion of the fruit but this has been brought under control and practically the entire crop will be shipped under safeguards which will prevent the spread of this pest to any other portion of the country.

The clearing house has functioned for one year and now represents a large proportion of the citrous growers of the State. This organization furnishes inspection to members and is nationally advertising Florida citrus but does not attempt to market the fruit.

The fall truck crop acreages are again small, due to unfavorable weather conditions at planting time, but a full acreage of winter and spring vegetables is expected. Compared with 1928-29, there is a large increase in the acreages of early Irish potatoes and strawberries.

Peaches and pears have yielded fairly well. Production of grapes was about like that of the preceding year. The crop of pecans is short over the entire State and a failure in some sections.

For the livestock, no marked change in production has taken place. With the increase in tick-free territory, there is now more incentive to the production of beef cattle and while the decrease in numbers of range cattle may be continuing, there is now some promise of an upward turn before long. Production of poultry declined for a time but now seems to have resumed its upward trend.

H. A. MARKS.